

# The Effective Field Theory of Dark Energy

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# Outline

- Motivations
- The Action
- Examples
- Mixing with gravity, stability and speed of sound
- The zero sound speed limit
- Conclusions

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# Motivations

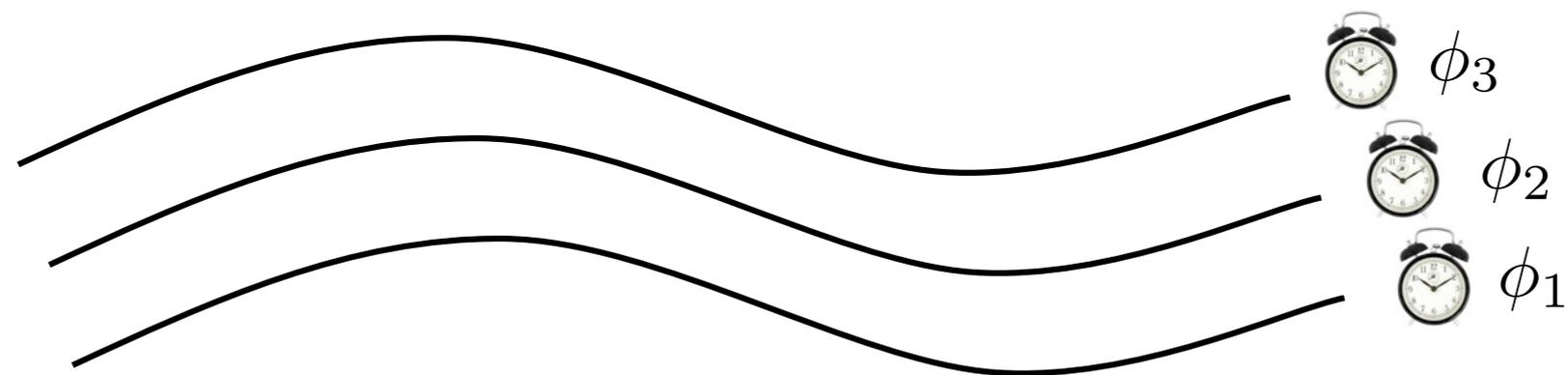
- Future surveys (**EUCLID, LSST, BigBoss, etc.**) will be sensitive to **dynamical properties** of dark energy and modified gravity (DE), observable in the power spectra and higher-order correlation functions
- **Many models** of DE, each one with its own motivations, physical effects, etc...
- Democratic view: look for a **unifying** (many models) and **effective** (agnostic to motivations) treatment of DE to test models against the data

## Ideally...

- Description in terms of limited number of effective operators, each one responsible for an observable dynamical feature (e.g. flavor-changing neutral currents in physics beyond Standard Model)

# Another acceleration

- Common feature of many DE models: gravity + single scalar degree of freedom (in some regime)
- **Similar to inflation**, where scalar field is needed to break de Sitter: clock



- Models of Inflation/DE share the same motivations and problems 
- Two types of **Effective Field Theory** approaches to inflation: “covariant” (*à la* Weinberg) and “geometrical” (Creminelli et al. '06, Cheung et al. '07, deals directly with cosmological perturbations)

# EFT: the covariant approach

Many inflation/DE models reduce, in their relevant regimes, to scalar tensor-theories

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} f(\phi) R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) + \mathcal{F}[\phi, g^{\mu\nu}] \right]$$

One possible strategy: (Weinberg '08, Park, Zurek and Watson '10, Bloomfield and Flanagan '11)

Apply covariant EFT to explore  $\mathcal{F}[\phi, g^{\mu\nu}]$  : **field**/derivative expansion

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One po

$$V = V_1\phi + V_2\phi^2 + V_3\phi^3 + V_4\phi^4$$

Apply c

$$= V_2\delta\phi^2 + V_3\phi_0(t)\delta\phi^2 + 6V_4\phi_0^2(t)\delta\phi^2$$

All terms potentially important in cosmological perturbation theory!

Howev

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Apply covariant EFT divergent expansion

$$\partial\phi^4, \square\phi\partial\phi^2, \text{ etc.}$$

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One possible strategy:

(Weinberg '08, Park, Zurek and Watson '10, Bloomfield and Flanagan '11)

Apply covariant EFT

in perturbative expansion

Ghost Condensate

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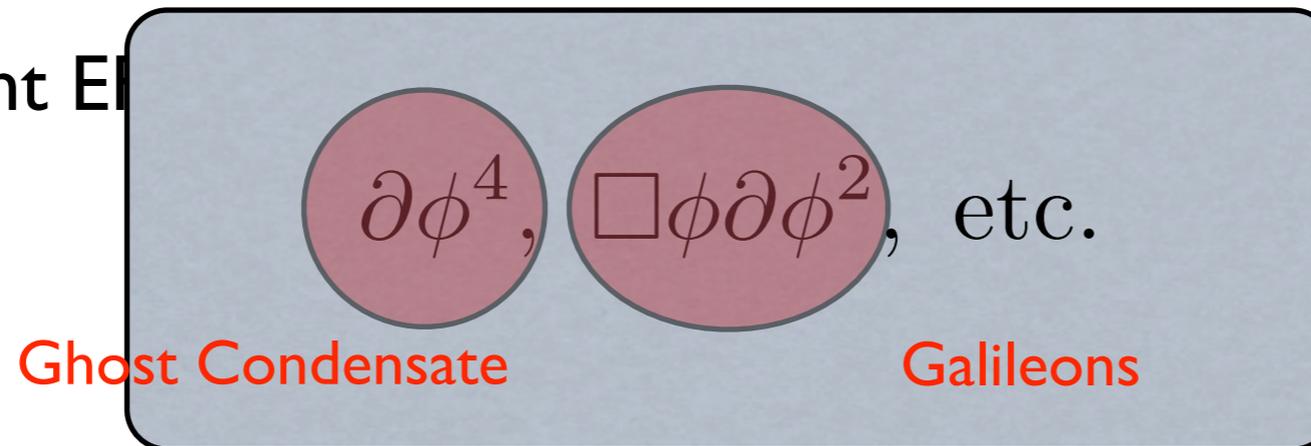
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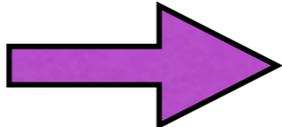
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However:

- 1) Expansion in number of fields is not necessarily meaningful
- 2) Naively “perturbations” but not always so...
- 3) Only halfway through the work to be done (background first + expand..)

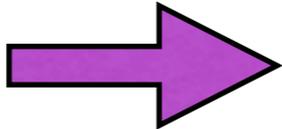
EFT: a theory for the relevant low-energy d.o.f.

Examples:

I) **QCD**: quarks and gluons  nucleons and pions at low energies

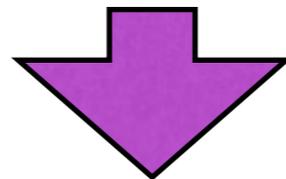
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Examples:

1) **QCD**: quarks and gluons  nucleons and pions at low energies

2) **EW theory**: 4 massless vector bosons, 2 complex scalars etc.

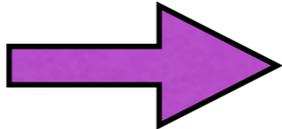
**UNITARY GAUGE**



1 massless and 3 massive vector bosons, 1 massive ``Higgs'' field etc.

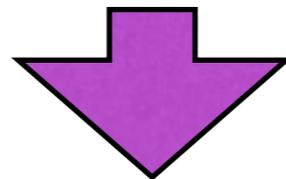
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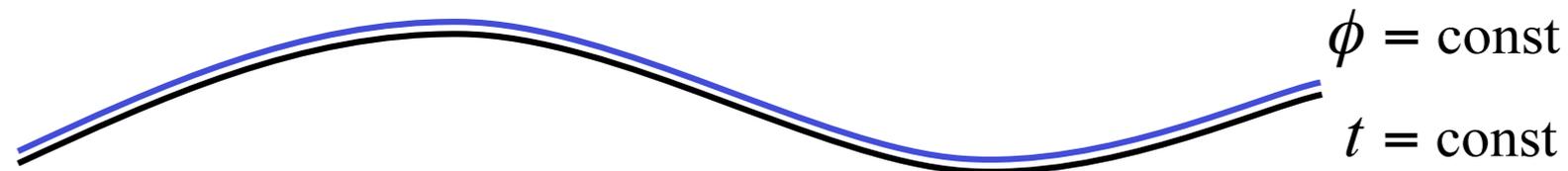
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3) **Cosmology**: ...Cosmological Perturbations!

# The Effective Field Theory of Inflation

Unitary gauge action:

(Creminelli et al. '06, Cheung et al. '07)



- Main idea: scalar degree of freedom is “eaten” by the metric. Ex:

$$\phi(t, \vec{x}) \rightarrow \phi_0(t) \quad (\delta\phi = 0) \quad -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}_0^2(t) g^{00}$$

- Action contains all operators invariant under spatial diffeomorphisms

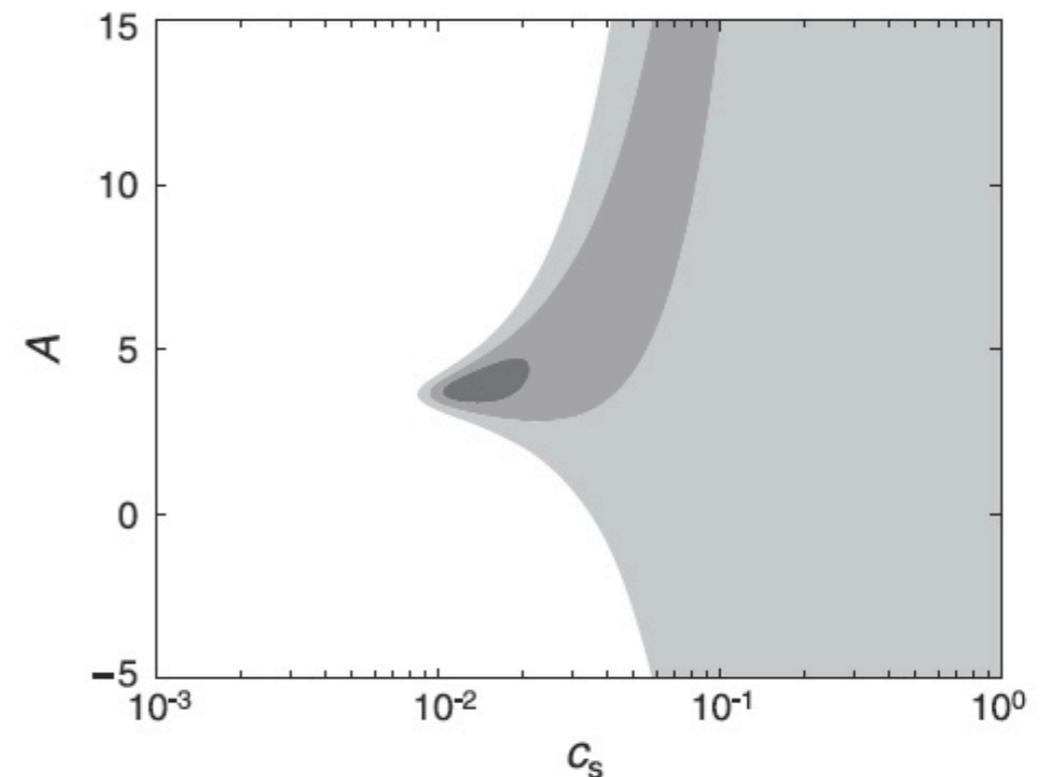
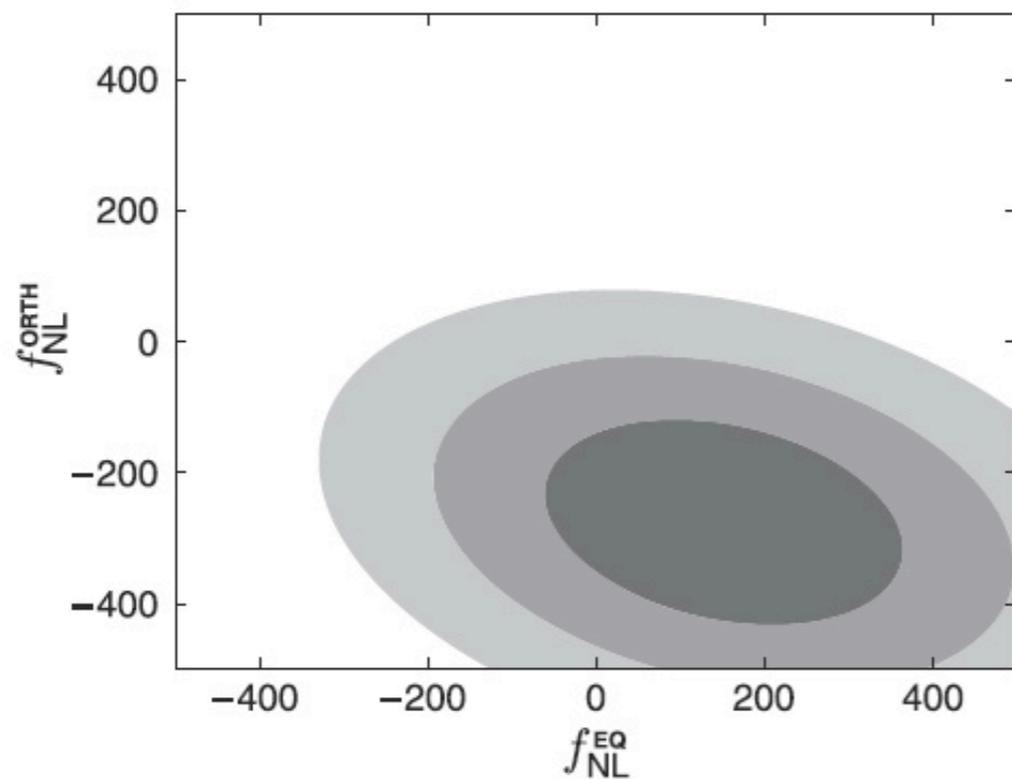
$$\int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2 R}{2} + \dot{H}(t) M_{\text{Pl}}^2 g^{00} - 3H^2(t) - \dot{H}(t) + \frac{M_2^4(t)}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{M}_1^3(t)}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \dots \right]$$

- Dictionary between operators and observables, i.e. shape and amplitude of non-Gaussianity constrained by **WMAP** and **Planck**

# EFT of Inflation and non-Gaussianity

(Bennett et al, 2012 - Final WMAP paper)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H}}{c_s^2} \left( \dot{\pi}^2 - c_s^2 \frac{(\partial_i \pi)^2}{a^2} \right) + (M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H}) \frac{1 - c_s^2}{c_s^2} \left( \frac{\dot{\pi} (\partial_i \pi)^2}{a^2} + \frac{A}{c_s^2} \dot{\pi}^3 \right) + \dots \right]$$



$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{eq}} = \frac{1 - c_s^2}{c_s^2} (-0.276 + 0.0785A)$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{orth}} = \frac{1 - c_s^2}{c_s^2} (0.0157 - 0.0163A)$$

## ... and DE?

- Obvious difference: energy scales and presence of different species (baryons, CDM, photons, neutrinos, etc) and thus different couplings, in the DE case
- $\Rightarrow$  Minimally coupled DE: Effective Field Theory of Quintessence: stability and zero sound speed limit (with Creminelli et al. 2008)

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## Our Recipe for Dark Energy: (with Gubitosi, Piazza, 2012)

- 1) Assume **WEP** (universally coupled metric  $S_m[g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi_i]$ ): **Jordan frame clock.**
- 2) Write the most generic action for  $g_{\mu\nu}$  compatible with the residual un-broken symmetries (3-diff).

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## The (Jordan frame) Action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00} \right] + S_{DE}^{(2)}$$

The most generic action written in terms of  $g_{\mu\nu}$  compatible with the residual symmetry of spatial diffeomorphisms

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The function  $f(t)$  cannot be set to unity by a metric redefinition  $\neq$  EFT of Inflation

$$g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow f^{1/2} g_{\mu\nu}$$

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...as well as tensors with “0” indices

Essentially: contractions with  $n_\mu = -\frac{\partial_\mu \phi}{\sqrt{-(\partial\phi^2)}}$

## The Action: main message

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00} \right] + S_{DE}^{(2)}$$


Any arbitrarily complicated action with one scalar d.o.f. will reduce to **this** in Unitary gauge, plus **terms** that start explicitly quadratic in the perturbations

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Example:

$$(\partial\phi)^2 R = \dot{\phi}_0^2 (-1 + \delta g^{00}) (R^{(0)} + \delta R) = \dot{\phi}_0^2 \left[ -R + R^{(0)}(t) + R^{(0)}(t) g^{00} + \delta g^{00} \delta R \right]$$

## The Action: background

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00} \right] + S_{DE}^{(2)}$$


Enough for background equations:

$$M^2(fG_{\mu\nu} - \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu f + g_{\mu\nu} \square f) + (cg^{00} + \Lambda)g_{\mu\nu} - 2c\delta_\mu^0 \delta_\nu^0 = T_{\mu\nu}^{(m)}$$

$$c = \frac{1}{2}(-\ddot{f} + H\dot{f})M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\rho_D + p_D)$$

$$\Lambda = \frac{1}{2}(\ddot{f} + 5H\dot{f})M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\rho_D - p_D)$$

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$$\Lambda = \frac{1}{2} (\ddot{f} + 5H \dot{f}) M^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\rho_D - p_D)$$

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3fM^2} (\rho_m + \rho_D)$$

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{1}{2fM^2} (\rho_m + \rho_D + p_m + p_D)$$

Generally Related to post-newtonian parameters

“Bare” Planck Mass

Defined by the modified Friedman equations

## The Action: perturbations

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00} \right] + S_{DE}^{(2)}$$



Explicitly quadratic in the perturbations:

$$S_{DE}^{(2)} = \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K - \frac{\bar{M}_2^2}{2} \delta K^2 - \frac{\bar{M}_3^2}{2} \delta K_\mu^\nu \delta K^\mu_\nu + \dots$$

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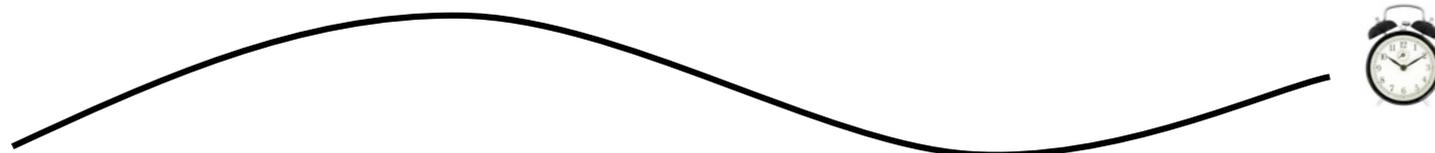


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**Extrinsic curvature:**  $n_\mu = -\frac{\partial_\mu \phi}{\sqrt{-(\partial\phi)^2}}$   $h_{\mu\nu} \equiv g_{\mu\nu} + n_\mu n_\nu$

$$K_{\mu\nu} = h_\mu^\sigma \nabla_\sigma n_\nu \quad \delta K_{\mu\nu} = K_{\mu\nu} - H h_{\mu\nu}$$



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**3-curvature terms:** 
$$+ \frac{\tilde{m}_1}{2} \delta g^{00} {}^{(3)}R + \frac{\tilde{M}_1}{2} \delta K_\mu^\nu {}^{(3)}R_\nu^\mu + \dots$$

In EFT of Inflation these terms can be eliminated by a metric redefinition



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$$+ \frac{\tilde{m}_1}{2} \delta g^{00} {}^{(3)}R + \frac{\tilde{M}_1}{2} \delta K_\mu^\nu {}^{(3)}R_\nu^\mu + \dots$$

Action in “**standard form**” (no ambiguities, field redefinitions)

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# Examples

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

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## Non-minimally coupled scalar field

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} F(\phi) R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

$$f(t) = F(\phi_0(t)), \quad \Lambda(t) = V(\phi_0(t)), \quad c(t) = \dot{\phi}_0^2(t)$$

# Examples

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

**K-essence** (Amendariz-Picon et al., 2000)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} P(\phi, X) \quad X \equiv g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi$$

**Expansion:**  $X = \dot{\phi}_0^2(t) (-1 + \delta g^{00})$

$$\Lambda(t) = c(t) - P(\phi_0(t), \dot{\phi}_0^2(t)), \quad c(t) = \left. \frac{\partial P}{\partial X} \right|_{\phi=\phi_0, X=\dot{\phi}_0^2},$$

$$M_n^4(t) = \left. \frac{\partial^n P}{\partial X^n} \right|_{\phi=\phi_0, X=\dot{\phi}_0^2} \quad (n \geq 2)$$

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$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - cg^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

“Galilean Cosmology” (Chow and Khoury, 2009)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} e^{-2\phi/M} R - \frac{r_c^2}{M} (\partial\phi)^2 \square\phi \right]$$

$$f(t) = e^{-2\frac{\phi_0}{M}} \quad , \quad \Lambda(t) = -\frac{r_c^2}{M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 + 3H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad , \quad c(t) = \frac{r_c^2}{M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 - 3H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad ,$$

$$M_2^4(t) = -\frac{r_c^2}{2M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 + 3H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad , \quad M_3^4(t) = -\frac{3r_c^2}{4M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 + H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad , \quad \bar{m}_1^3(t) = -\frac{r_c^2}{M} 2\dot{\phi}_0^3 \quad ,$$

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Mixing with gravity:

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Apply “Stueckelberg trick”  
and go to Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi) dt^2 + a^2 (1 - 2\Psi) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

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$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi) dt^2 + a^2 (1 - 2\Psi) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

The scalar d.o.f. can be made explicit by forcing a time-diff on the action:

$$t \rightarrow t + \pi(x)$$

and by promoting the parameter of diffeomorphism to a field:

$$c(t) \rightarrow c(t + \pi) = c(t) + \dot{c}(t) \pi + \frac{1}{2} \ddot{c}(t) \pi^2 + \dots$$

$$g^{00} \rightarrow g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu (t + \pi) \partial_\nu (t + \pi) = g^{00} + 2g^{0\mu} \partial_\mu \pi + g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \pi \partial_\nu \pi ,$$

$$\delta K \rightarrow \delta K - 3\dot{H}\pi - a^{-2} \nabla^2 \pi$$

## Mixing with gravity:

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Apply “Stueckelberg trick”  
and go to Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi) dt^2 + a^2 (1 - 2\Psi) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

Expand at quadratic order and retain only kinetic operators (2 derivatives):

$$\dot{\Psi}^2, \quad (\vec{\nabla} \Psi)^2, \quad \text{etc.}$$

Modified Gravity  $\approx$  Kinetic mixing  $\dot{\Psi} \dot{\pi}, \quad \vec{\nabla} \Psi \vec{\nabla} \pi, \quad \text{etc.}$

One less derivative in couplings  $\dot{\Psi} \pi \approx$  Jeans length (in progress)

# Mixing with gravity 1: Brans-Dicke

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Apply Stueckelberg and go to  
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} \equiv \int M^2 f \left[ -3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 + c\dot{\pi}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 + 3(\dot{f}/f)\dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} + (\dot{f}/f)\vec{\nabla}\pi(\vec{\nabla}\Phi - 2\vec{\nabla}\Psi) \right]$$

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1 propagating d.o.f.

$$\det \mathcal{L} = k^4(\omega^2 - k^2)$$

De-mixing = conformal transformation

$$\Phi_E = \Phi + \frac{1}{2}(\dot{f}/f)\pi$$

$$\Psi_E = \Psi - \frac{1}{2}(\dot{f}/f)\pi$$

Newtonian limit  $\partial_t \ll \vec{\nabla}$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} \equiv \int M^2 f \left[ -3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 + c\dot{t}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 + 3(\dot{f}/f)\dot{\Psi}\pi + (\dot{f}/f)\vec{\nabla}\pi(\vec{\nabla}\Phi - 2\vec{\nabla}\Psi) \right] - \Phi\delta\rho_m$$

$$1 - \gamma \equiv \frac{\Phi - \Psi}{\Phi} = \frac{M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f}{2(c + M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f)}$$

$$\nabla^2 \pi = \frac{-M^2 \dot{f}}{2(c + M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f)} \nabla^2 \Phi$$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G_{\text{eff}} \delta\rho_m \quad \text{Poisson equation}$$

$$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2 f} \frac{c + M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f}{c + \frac{3}{4} M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f} \quad \text{“dressed” Newton constant}$$

## Mixing with gravity 2:

(see also Creminelli et al. 2006 & 2008)

$G(\phi, X) \square \phi$  (Cf. braiding: Deffayet et al., 2010)

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

$f(t) = 1$

Apply Stueckelberg and go to  
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi) dt^2 + a^2 (1 - 2\Psi) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} \equiv \int M^2 \left[ -3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 \right] + c\dot{\pi}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 - 3\bar{m}_1^3 \dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} - \bar{m}_1^3 \vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\pi$$

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$G(\phi, X) \square \phi$  (Cf. braiding: Deffayet et al., 2010)

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Apply Stueckelberg and go to  
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi) dt^2 + a^2 (1 - 2\Psi) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} = \int M^2 \left[ -3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 \right] + c\dot{\pi}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 - 3\bar{m}_1^3 \dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} - \bar{m}_1^3 \vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\pi$$

1 propagating d.o.f.

$$\det \mathcal{L} = k^4 (\omega^2 - c_s^2 k^2)$$

$$c_s^2 = \frac{c + \frac{1}{2}(H\bar{m}_1^3 + \dot{\bar{m}}_1^3) - \frac{1}{4}\bar{m}_1^6/M^2}{c + \frac{3}{4}\bar{m}_1^6/M^2}$$

De-mixing  $\neq$  conformal transformation

$$\Phi_E = \Phi + \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2M^2} \pi$$

$$\Psi_E = \Psi + \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2M^2} \pi$$

Newtonian limit  $\partial_t \ll \vec{\nabla}$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} = \int M^2 \left[ -3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 \right] + c\dot{\pi}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 - 3\bar{m}_1^3\dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} - \bar{m}_1^3\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\pi - \Phi\delta\rho_m$$

$\Phi = \Psi$  unlike Brans-Dicke theories  $\gamma = 1$

$$\nabla^2\pi = -\frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2c}\nabla^2\Phi$$

$\nabla^2\Phi = 4\pi G_{\text{eff}}\delta\rho_m$  **Poisson equation**

$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2 f} \left( 1 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{4cM^2} \right)^{-1}$  “dressed” Newton constant

# Model building v.s. General treatment (with Gubitosi, Piazza, 2012)

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

Find, once and for all, the action for the scalar degree of freedom:

$$S_\pi^{\text{kinetic}} = \int a^3 \left\{ \left[ c + 2M_2^4 + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\dot{f}^2}{f} M^2 - \frac{3}{2} \bar{m}_1^3 \frac{\dot{f}}{f} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\bar{m}_1^6}{M^2} \right] \dot{\pi}^2 - \left[ c + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\dot{f}^2}{f} M^2 - \frac{1}{2} \bar{m}_1^3 \frac{\dot{f}}{f} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\bar{m}_1^6}{M^2} + \frac{1}{2} (\dot{\bar{m}}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3) \right] \frac{(\vec{\nabla} \pi)^2}{a^2} \right\}$$

And address, once and for all, all questions of stability, speed of sound and deviations from GR:

$$1 - \gamma = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(M^2 \dot{f}^2 + \bar{m}_1^3 \dot{f})/f}{c + M^2 \dot{f}^2/f + \frac{1}{2}(\bar{m}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3)}$$

$$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2 f} \frac{c + M^2 \dot{f}^2/f + \frac{1}{2}(\bar{m}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3)}{c + \frac{3}{4} M^2 \dot{f}^2/f - \frac{1}{2} \bar{m}_1^3 \dot{f}/f - \frac{1}{4} \bar{m}_1^6/M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\bar{m}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3)}$$

# Outline

- Motivations
- The Action
- Examples
- Mixing with gravity, stability and speed of sound
- **The zero sound speed limit**
- Conclusions

# The zero sound speed limit of quintessence

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

- Consider a minimally coupled field,  $\dot{f} = 1$ , and the limit  $c = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_D + p_D) \ll M_2^4$  with  $M_2 \simeq \bar{m}_1$

- The action reads

$$S_\pi \stackrel{\text{kinetic}}{=} \int a^3 \left\{ 2M_2^4 \dot{\pi}^2 - \left[ c - \frac{1}{4} \frac{M_2^6}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} + \frac{1}{2} \left( \dot{M}_2^3 + H M_2^3 \right) \right] \frac{(\vec{\nabla} \pi)^2}{a^2} \right\}$$

- The speed of sound of fluctuations vanishes

$$c_s^2 = \frac{c}{2M_2^4} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{M_2^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} + \frac{3\dot{M}_2}{8M_2^2} + \frac{H}{8M_2} \ll 1$$

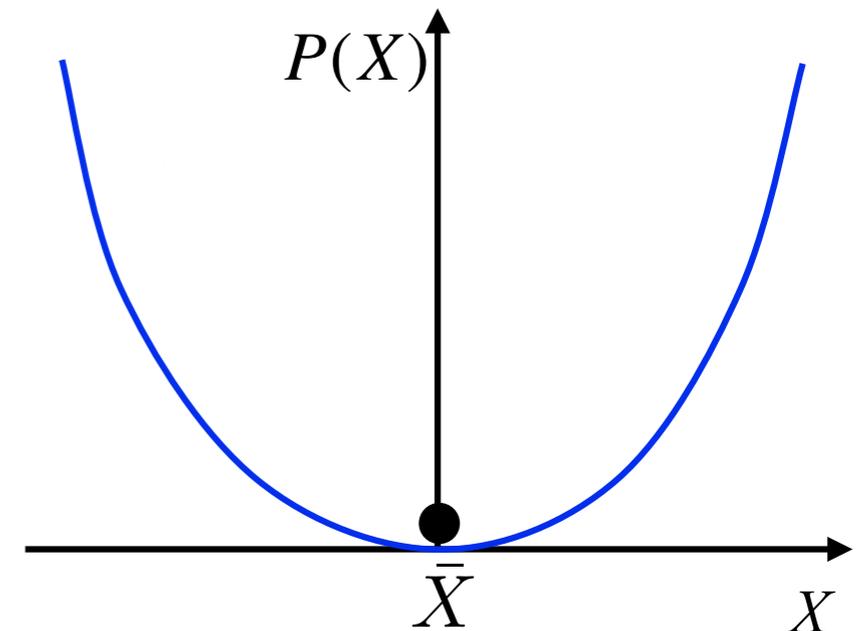
# Motivations

- Shift symmetry invariance:  $\phi \rightarrow \phi + \lambda \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{L} = P(X)$

**EOM in expanding Universe:**  $\partial_t(a^3 \dot{\phi} P_{,X}) = 0$

- Solution with  $\dot{\phi} = \text{const} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{X} = \text{const}^2$

and  $P_{,X} \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad w \rightarrow -1$  and  $c_s^2 \rightarrow 0$



# Motivations

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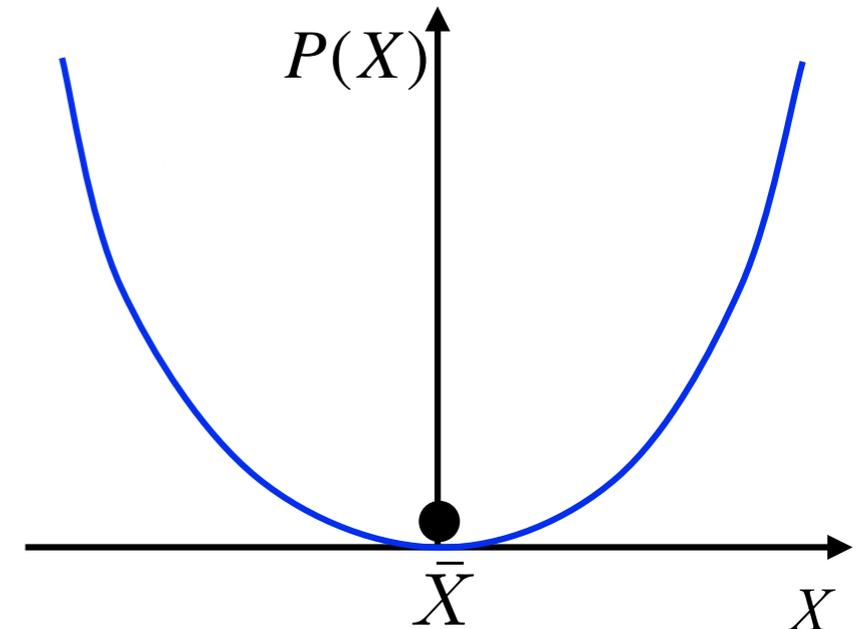
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**Ghost condensate theory:** [Arkani-Hamed et al., '03, '05]

$$P(X) = \bar{P} + \frac{1}{2} P_{,XX} (X - \bar{X})^2 + \text{higher der.}$$



# Motivations

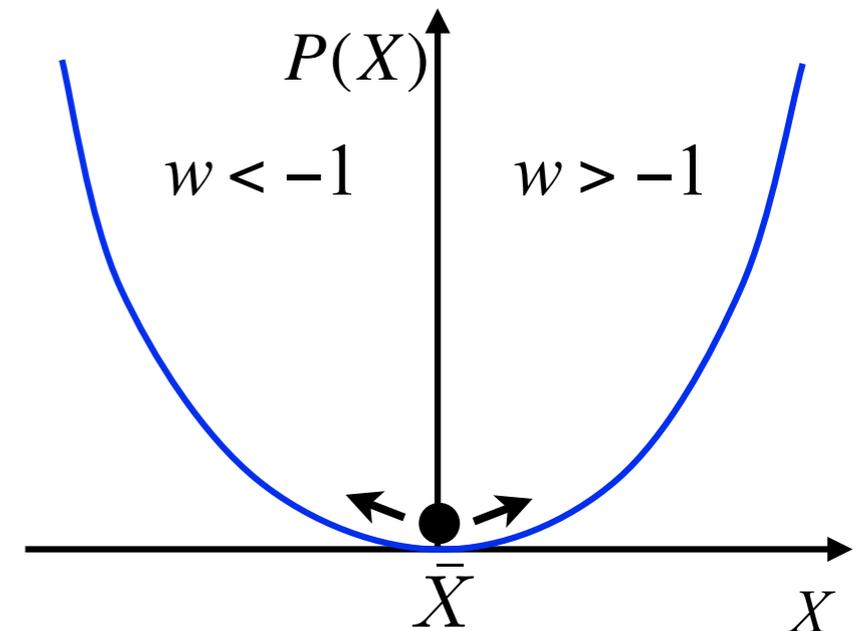
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**Ghost condensate theory:** [Arkani-Hamed et al., '03, '05]

$$P(X) = \bar{P} + \frac{1}{2} P_{,XX} (X - \bar{X})^2 + \text{higher der.}$$



- Tiny breaking of shift symmetry:  $c \ll M_2^4 \Leftrightarrow \bar{P}_{,X} \ll \bar{P}_{,XX} \bar{X}$

$$P(\phi, X) = -V(\phi) + \bar{P}_{,X}(\phi, X)(X - \bar{X}) + \frac{1}{2} \bar{P}_{,XX}(\phi, X)(X - \bar{X})^2 + \dots$$

**Pressure gradients suppressed wrt density gradients:**

$$\delta P|_{\delta\phi=0} \sim \bar{P}_{,X} \cdot \delta X$$

$$\delta\rho|_{\delta\phi=0} \sim \bar{P}_{,XX} \bar{X} \cdot \delta X$$

- Stable model even for  $w < -1$  (higher derivatives operators) [Arkani-Hamed et al., '05; Creminelli et al., '06]

# Clustering quintessence

- Euler equation: 
$$\dot{\vec{v}} + (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla})\vec{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho + p} \left[ \vec{\nabla} p + \vec{v} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \right] - \vec{\nabla} \Phi$$

[Creminelli et al. '10;  
see also Lim et al. '10]

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For  $c_s^2 = 0$  pressure gradients (orthogonal to the fluid 4-velocity) vanish!

$(u^\mu \nabla_\mu u^\nu = 0 \text{ if } c_s^2 = 0)$

➔ Geodesic motion: quintessence remains comoving with dark matter (also nonlinearly)



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➔ Geodesic motion: quintessence remains comoving with dark matter (also nonlinearly)



• Continuity equation:  $\dot{\rho}_Q + \vec{\nabla} [(\rho_Q + p_Q)\vec{v}] = 0$

No pressure gradients but pressure is important!

No conserved particle number or current

$$\bar{\rho}_m \propto \frac{1}{a^3}; \quad \bar{\rho}_Q \propto \frac{1}{a^{3(1+w)}}$$

# Clustering quintessence

- Linearized continuity equations:

$$\dot{\delta}_m + \frac{1}{a} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

$$\dot{\delta}_Q - 3w \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \delta_Q + (1 + w) \frac{1}{a} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$

During dark matter dominance:

$$\delta_Q = \frac{1 + w}{1 - 3w} \delta_{\text{DM}}$$

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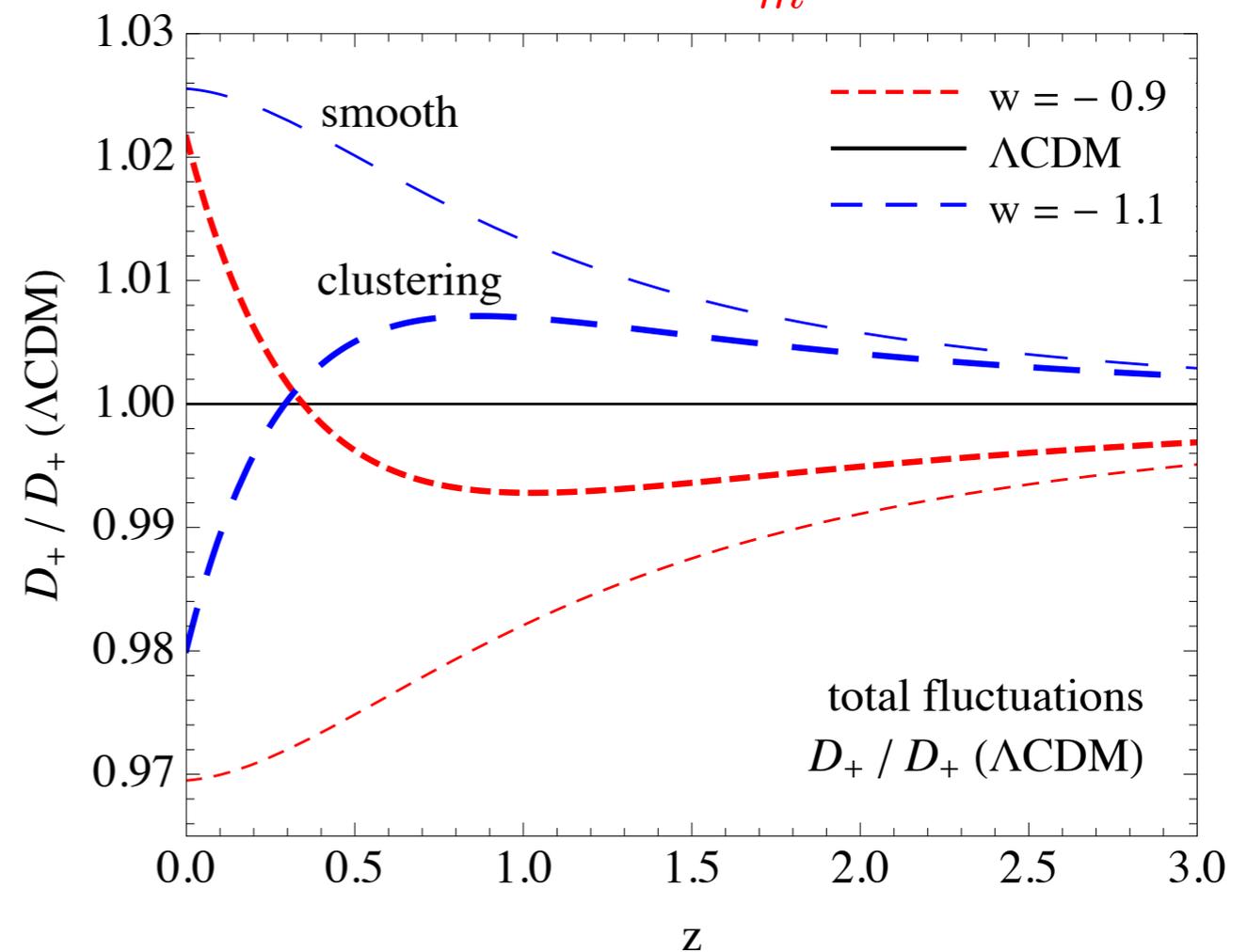
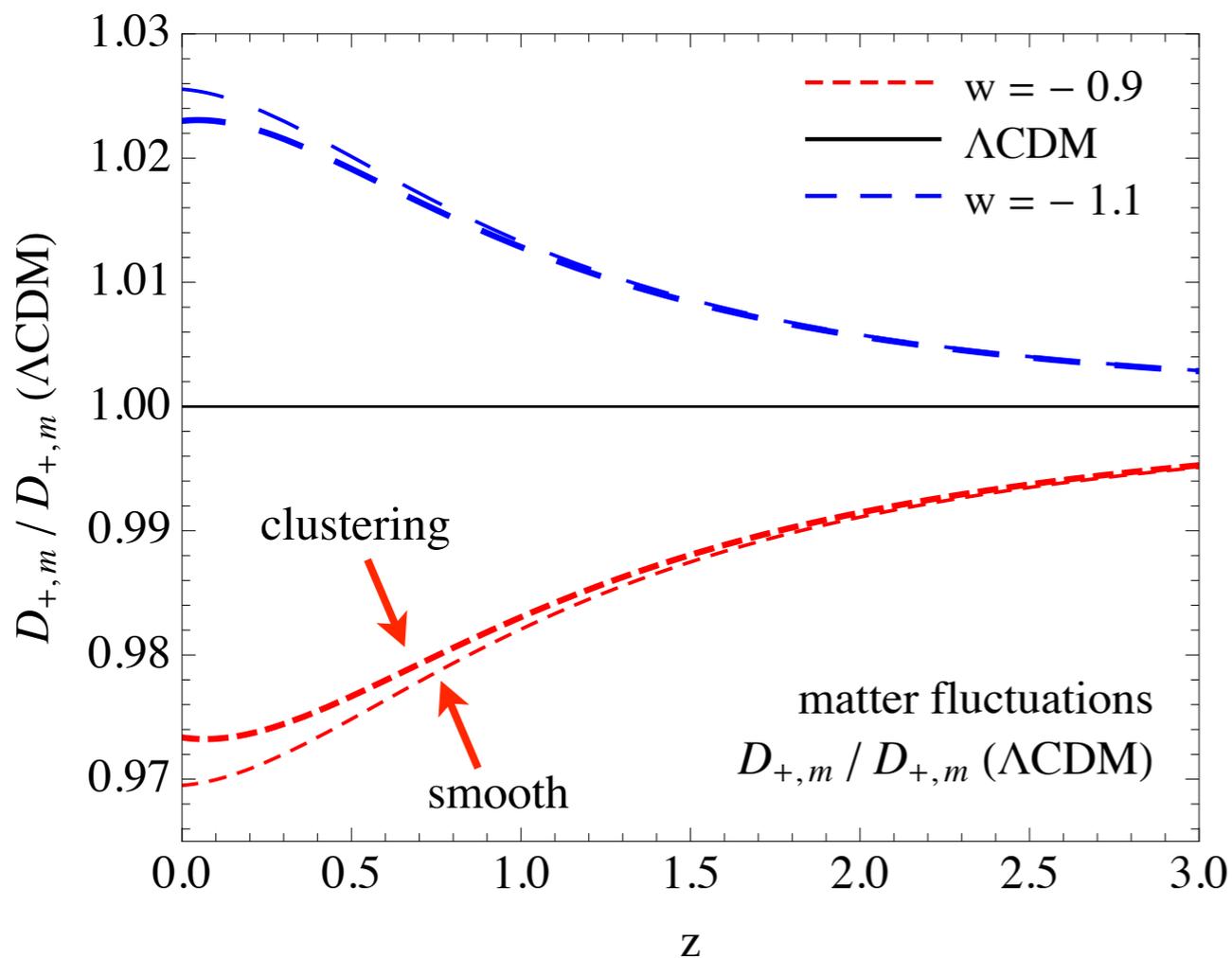
During dark matter dominance:

$$\delta_Q = \frac{1+w}{1-3w} \delta_{\text{DM}}$$

- Linearized Euler + Poisson equations:

$$\dot{\vec{v}} + \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \vec{v} = -\vec{\nabla} \Phi$$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G a^2 \bar{\rho}_m \left( \delta_m + \frac{\Omega_Q}{\Omega_m} \delta_Q \right)$$

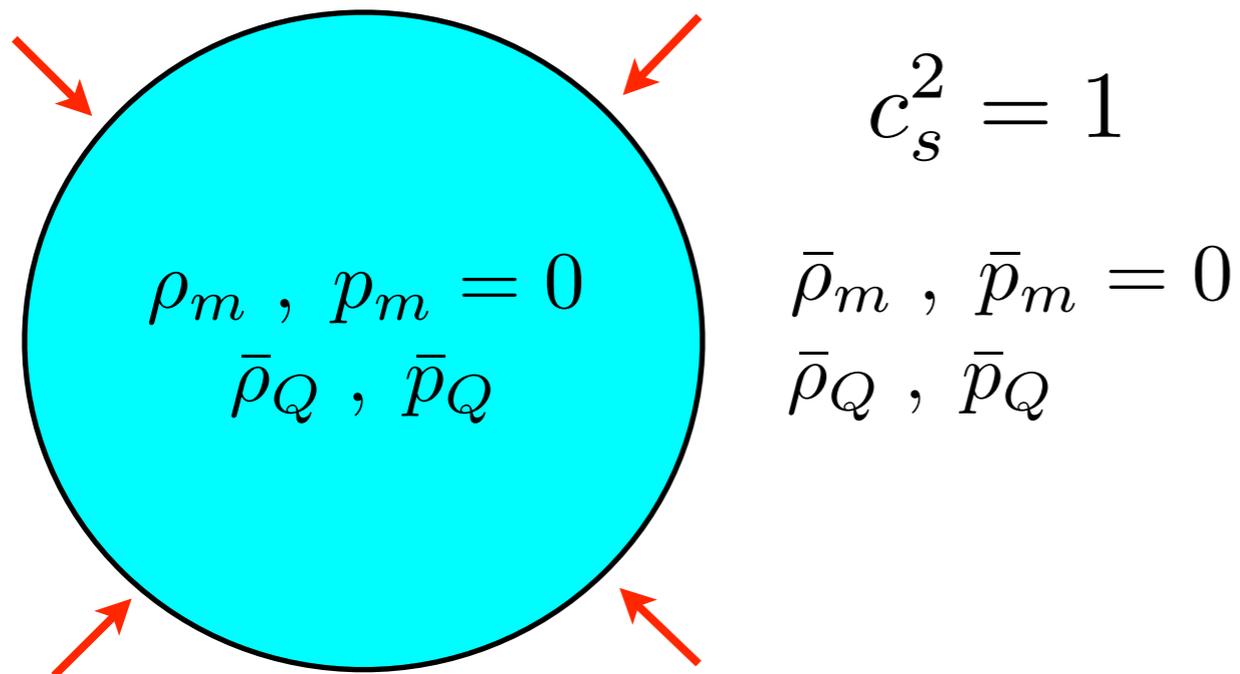


# Spherical collapse

- Quintessence affects the spherical collapse model:

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- Both density and pressure remain homogeneous and follow the outside Hubble flow:



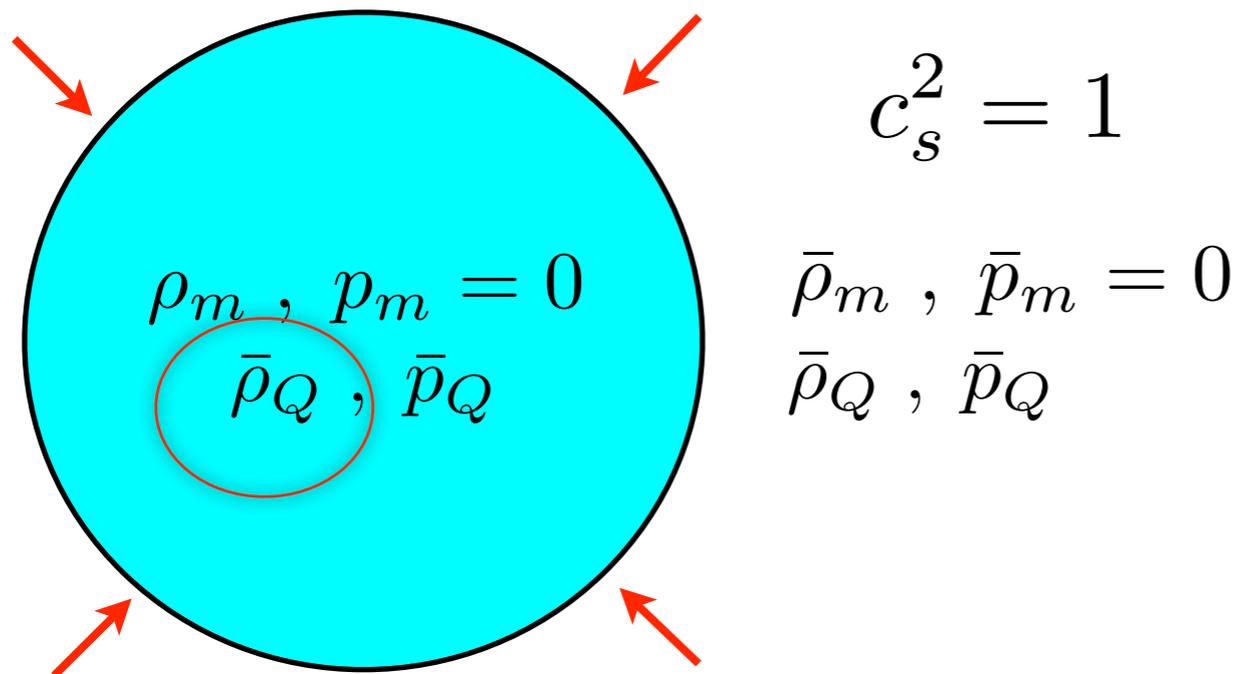
$$\frac{\ddot{R}}{R} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho_m + \bar{\rho}_Q + 3\bar{p}_Q)$$

No FRW universe inside [Wang & Steinhardt '98]

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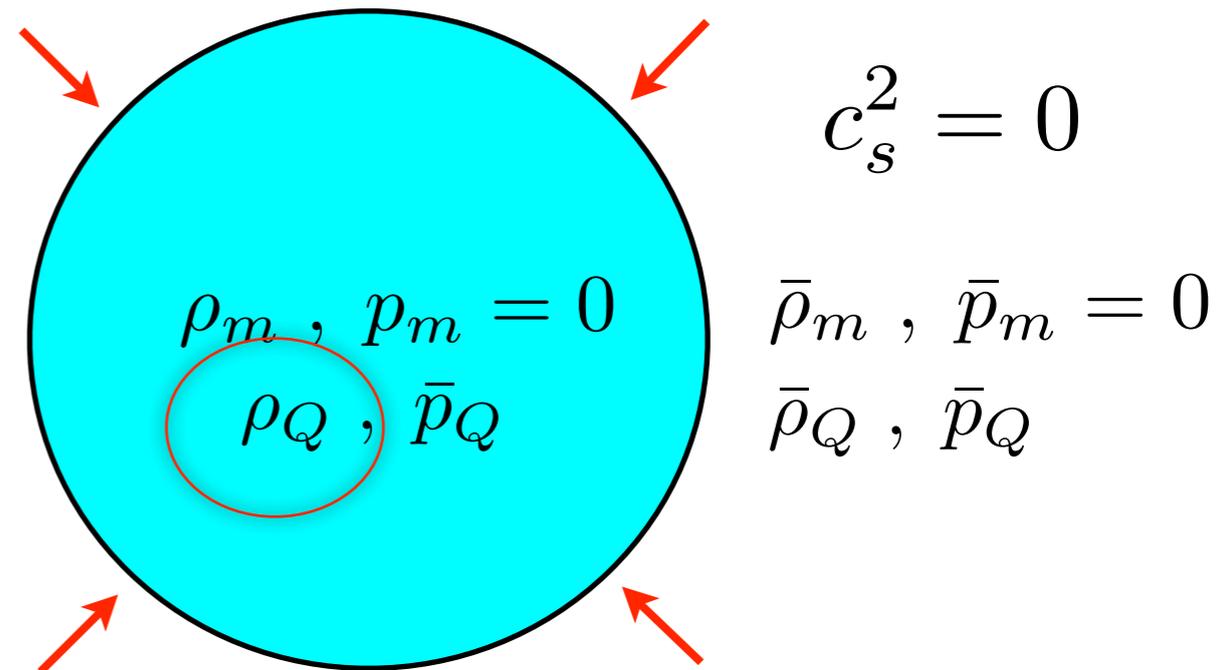
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No FRW universe inside [Wang & Steinhardt '98]

- Quintessence density follows dark matter flow but pressure remains as outside:



$$\frac{\ddot{R}}{R} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho_m + \rho_Q + 3\bar{p}_Q)$$

Exact FRW universe inside!

# Quintessence mass

- Evolution equation inside the overdensity:  $\dot{\rho}_Q + 3\frac{\dot{R}}{R}(\rho_Q + \bar{p}_Q) = 0$
- Large overdensities behave as DM:

$$\delta_Q \gg |1 + w| \Rightarrow \delta\dot{\rho}_Q + 3\frac{\dot{R}}{R}\delta\rho_Q \approx 0$$

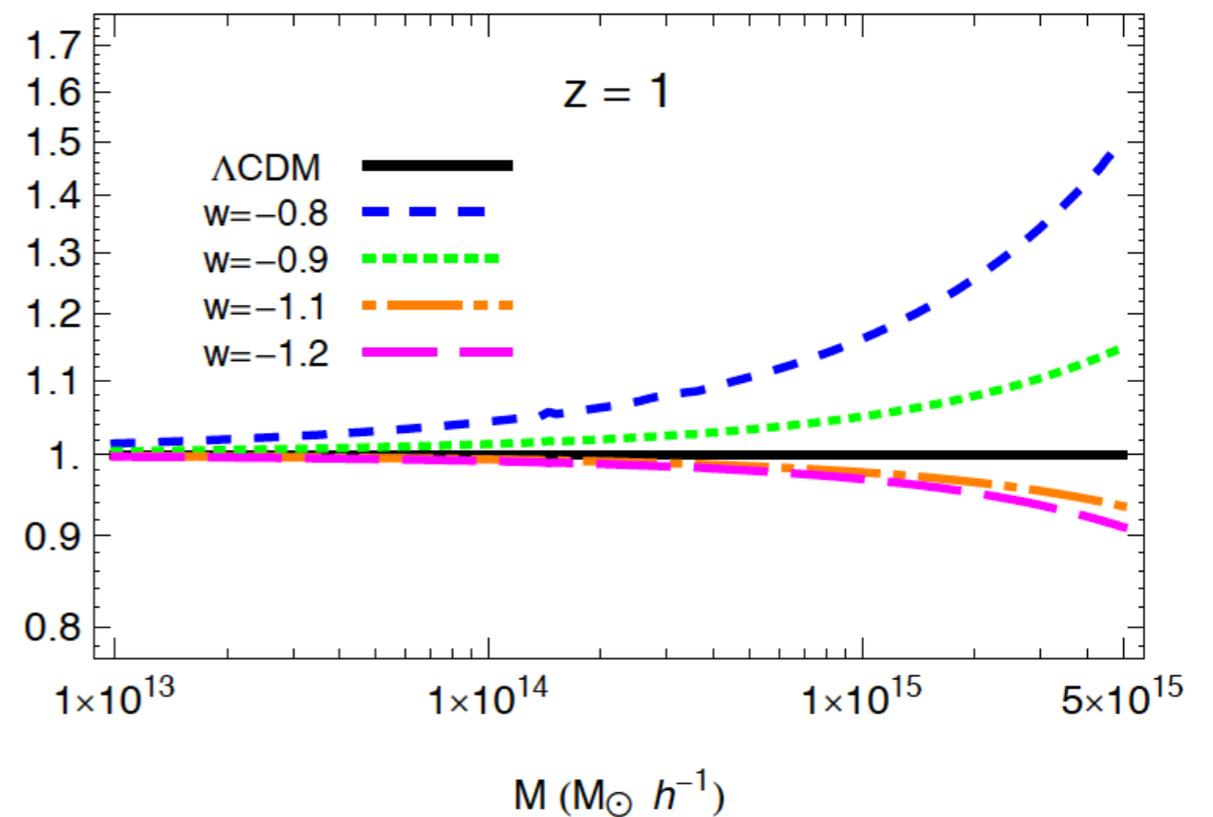
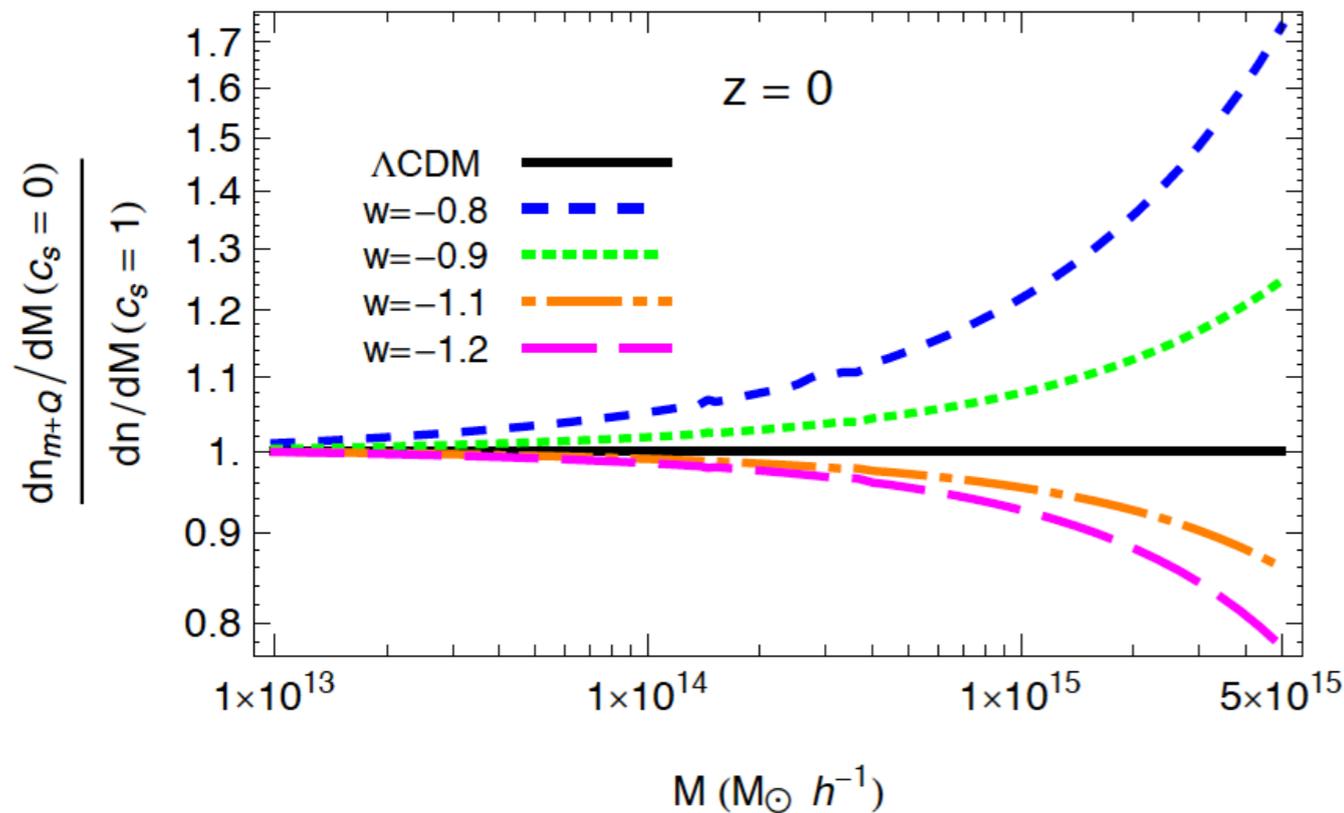
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Conserved quintessence mass inside halos!

$$M_Q = \frac{4\pi R^3}{3}\delta\rho_Q \approx (1 + w) \left. \frac{\Omega_Q}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \right|_{z_{\text{coll}}} \cdot M_{\text{DM}}$$



# Conclusion

- Unifying framework for dark energy/modified gravity
- Effective language: cosmological perturbations as the relevant d.o.f.
- Extension of EFT of inflation and quintessence to non-minimal couplings
- Unambiguous way to address mixing, stability, speed of sound etc.
- See also Bloomfield et al. 1211.7054. Much work in progress to consider effects of coupling to matter
- Quintessence can have zero sound speed! Simplest phenomenological alternative to the smooth case
- New phenomenology: 1) nonlinear corrections to PS and bispectrum; 2) Quintessence mass in virialized objects